

MAY 26 1992

Honorable Norman F. Lent  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Lent:

This is in response to your inquiry of April 28, 1992 written on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Larry Michlin of Jericho, New York concerning the Cerro Wire and Cable Company located on Robbins Lane in Syosset, New York. Mr. Michlin inquired as to the existing site conditions and what actions the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking to address these conditions.

The Cerro Wire and Cable Company (CERRO) operated a copper rolling, drawing, and extruding facility at the site. Cerro's industrial processes included caustic cleaning, acid pickling, acid zinc/cyanide electroplating, and rinsing. These industrial processes produced hydroxide sludge containing arsenic, copper, lead, zinc, and nickel from on-site treatment. The wastewater generated as a result of these operations was treated with caustics and chlorine to address the cyanide and/or treated with lime and polymers to control heavy metals. The treated effluent was discharged to on-site recharge basins and the basin sludge was dewatered and disposed of off-site at an industrial landfill.

Most of the sludge generated by the operations was removed in the summer of 1984. The removal of sludge and soils from the sides and bottom of the recharge basins began in June 1984 and was completed on September 21, 1984. Approximately 70,380 cubic yards were removed to approved industrial landfill sites in New Jersey. No manufacturing activities have occurred at the site since the plant closed in 1984. The site is currently listed as a Class 4 site on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) list of inactive hazardous waste sites. A Class 4 site is defined as a site that has been properly closed, but requires continued management. Some further remediation of the site in the form of physical removal of remaining soil contamination in the on-site lagoons is being examined by the NYSDEC. Groundwater monitoring, however, continues at the site to determine the potential impact of on-site contaminants on the groundwater.



At this time, the EPA feels that the site is being properly addressed by the NYSDEC. We are prepared to work cooperatively with the state on this matter should our involvement become necessary. If you have any further questions concerning the site or need additional information regarding the NYSDEC's actions, your staff may contact Mr. Anthony Candela of the NYSDEC at (516) 751-4078.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please have your staff contact Jeane Rosianski, Chief, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations Branch at (212) 264-7834.

Sincerely,

K/

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator

cc: Thomas C. Jorling, Commissioner  
New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation

bcc: R. Carroll  
Executive and Congressional Communications  
EPD  
A. Candela, NYSDEC Region 1  
B. Conetta, PSB:TPSS  
Site File ✓